

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph:

[0009] Several devices are currently in use to secure the suture after the catheter has been placed. One prior art design employs a catheter shaft connected to a stopcock at the proximal end. The stopcock has an internal barrel that rotates in a cylindrical housing. The barrel has a center hole passing through it that may be aligned with the lumen of the catheter by rotating the barrel using a key attached to the catheter by a string or suture. A suture passes from the distal end of the catheter, through the shaft of the lumen, through the center hole in the barrel, and out of a proximal end of the stopcock. As the stopcock barrel is rotated the center hole is no longer aligned with the catheter lumen and ~~seal~~ seals off the lumen. As the barrel rotates, it also pinches the suture between the sidewall of the barrel and the stopcock housing on both sides of the barrel. The pinching of the suture secures it in place.

Please replace paragraph [00038] with the following amended paragraph:

[00038] In another aspect, a manually operable release member is provided on the hub such that the latch is disabled from latching unless the release member is manually operated. According to the invention, this features provides asymmetry in the latching and unlatching operation. For example, latching can be accomplished by pulling a second hub member towards a first hub member. Unlatching, however, cannot be accomplished by a simple reverse action of pushing the second hub member away from the first hub member. For unlatching, the release member is manually operated first before the second member can be pushed away from the first hub member. As can be ~~appreeiate~~ appreciated by persons of ordinary skill in the art, this asymmetric feature advantageously limits a person's ability to accidentally unlatch the hub.

Please replace paragraph [00046] with the following amended paragraph:

[00046] Figure 5B is an end-on view of the slide of the latching hub assembly of Figure 3 viewed from the proximal end.

Please replace paragraph [00057] with the following amended paragraph:

[00057] Figure 11A is an elevational view of the catheter of Figure 1 in its latched position, illustrating ~~the~~ how the catheter appears prior to removal.

Please replace paragraph [000114] with the following amended paragraph:

[000114] Even though the ~~embodiment~~ embodiments presented here have been described with tongue 237 located on the hub 230 and slide recess 211 on slide 210, they may easily be ~~reverse~~ reversed such that tongue 237 is now on slide 210 and slide recess 211 is now on hub 230.

Please replace paragraph [000116] with the following amended paragraph:

[000116] Similarly, it is envisioned that lock recess 241 on the hub 230 may exchange places with lock catch 215 on slide 210 to function according to the present invention. Accordingly, the recess and catch may also be oriented and at different angles to perform the same function.

Please replace paragraph [000120] with the following amended paragraph:

[000120] In another other alternative embodiments of the present invention, a cord, wire or line may be used in place of the suture. This would include, but not be limited to braided, twisted, or single filament, natural or synthetic, extruded or formed in other manners.